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REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are still pending in this application.

In response to the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicant elects to prosecute the claims of Group II, claims 5-11, with traverse. Applicant respectfully requests that all claims be examined together. Barring that, Applicant respectfully requests that the claims of Groups II and III be examined together.

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement because it is believed that all claims can be searched and examined without serious burden to the Examiner. MPEP §803 states: "If the search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions."

This section also states (under "II. Guidelines"): "Examiners must provide reasons and and/or examples to support conclusions, but need not cite documents to support the restriction requirement in most cases. . . . For purposes of the initial requirement, a serious burden on the Examiner may be *prima facie* shown by an appropriate explanation of separate classification, or separate status in the art, or different field of search."

In this situation, no reasons have been provided demonstrating a serious burden. There is no explanation that the independent claims are separately classified. There is no explanation that the independent claims have a separate status in the art. There is no explanation that the independent claims are in a different field of search. In fact, as explained below, no reasons can be provided because there would be no serious burden upon the Examiner to examine all of the claims of the application.

The Examiner is reminded of the telephone conversation with the undersigned last July in which the Examiner indicated that if a single reference or references were used to reject all the claims in particular claim sets, then the restriction requirement would be withdrawn.

I. Groups II and III Can Be Examined Together Without Any Burden at All.

The claims of Group II (claims 5-11) relate to "enabling forward navigation in a content space." The claims of Group III (claims 12-16) likewise relate to the same concept.

Independent claim 5 has been elected by Applicant. Once the subject matter of claim 5 has been searched and examined, it will be a simple matter to search and examine the subject matter of independent claim 12. Both claims 5 and 12 require many the same features except for minor differences. Claim 5 requires a descriptor file but this descriptor file is not a feature of claim 12. Claim 5 also requires a third message digest but claim 12 does not require this third message digest. Therefore, searching and examining claim 12 is actually easier than claim 5 because certain features are not present. There is absolutely no burden to search the subject matter of claim 12 once the subject matter of claim 5 has been searched.

The respective dependent claims of independent claims 5 and 12 are very similar. A review of dependent claims 6-11 and 13-16 reveals that the subject matter of these dependent claims is nearly identical. Certainly searching the subject matter of claims 13-16 will be trivial once the subject matter of claims 6-11 has been searched.

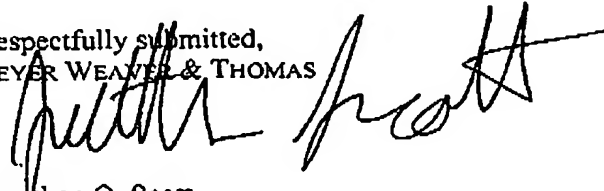
II. All Groups Can Be Examined Together Without Any Serious Burden.

Independent claims 5 and 12 relate to forward navigation in a content space, while independent claims 1 and 17 relate to backward navigation and circular navigation, respectively. Although the concepts of forward navigation, backward navigation and circular navigation sound different, many similar features are required in the various independent claims. For example, all of the independent claims require use of message digests, computer files and different versions of a computer file. A mapping table and a descriptor file or also features common to certain of the independent claims.

Because these features are common to the independent claims, once a search and examination has been performed for one claim set, there will be no serious burden upon the Examiner to search and examine all of the other independent claim sets. There might be a minor burden, but there certainly is no serious burden, and that is what the MPEP requires.

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution, please do not hesitate to telephone the undersigned at (612) 252-3330.

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS


Jonathan O. Scott
Registration No. 39,364

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP
P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778

Telephone: (612) 252-3330
Facsimile: (612) 825-6304